

Immunity

The Journal will express no opinion of and assume no responsibility for the views of "Immunity" correspondents. They must win or lose on their own merits by abounding in their own wisdom, and each reader must appraise each communication for what it is worth and take it for better or worse.

Communications will not be signed when published, but the author must be known to the editor. Send on your complaints, your kicks, your knocks, your boosts. We want constructive and destructive criticism. Air your pet hobbies. You are not limited to your own town or the medical profession.

THE HEALING POWER OF PRAYER

To the Editor: The letter signed by "One Who Wants to Know," in the April issue of the Journal, unjustly criticizes the Episcopal Church and the recent Christian Healing Mission held at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco.

Mr. Hickson in his address to the sick, told them not to forsake their physicians, but to honor them with the honor due them, for the good work they are doing for humanity. But as every physician will admit, God is the ultimate source of all healing, and to the firm believer in God "all things are possible."

Mr. Hickson's method has no connection with psychotherapy, neither is it healing by mental suggestion. It is healing through the power of prayer, in obedience to the command of Christ "to heal the sick." Of course, to a person who never prays, to the man whose spiritual life is atrophied, it may seem strange, but to the man of spiritual habits, to the believer in Jesus Christ, prayer is a mighty power.

There is no war between physical healing, as practiced by physicians and surgeons, and spiritual healing. There must be co-operation between those attacking evil from the physical side and those attacking it from the spiritual side. God works from both sides. Any broad-minded doctor must admit that God does heal through surgery and through medicine. He does at times heal through mental suggestion. Yes, he does at times heal through the power of prayer. Instead of criticizing, let us as physicians and surgeons make greater use of the Power of Prayer. It will make us better physicians and surgeons. From

"ONE WHO KNOWS."

June 25, 1920, San Jose, Calif.

Correspondence

FROM A. M. A. DELEGATE

San Francisco, June 14, 1920.

To the Editor:

In reply to your letter of June 10, 1920, enclosing the official copy of the report of Dr. Van Zwalenburg, I feel that I have very little to add to what Dr. Van Zwalenburg has already said as far as the personal side of the meeting is concerned. There are some things, however, in connection with the reports of the various councils that I believe would be interesting to the members of the component county societies. The Council on Health and Public Instruction, in its report for 1919, stated that at the present time there are only five states in which satisfactory legislation has not been enacted on vital statistics. Two of these states are in the vicinity of California, and it is within the province of the members of our society to co-operate in an effort to have model bills passed on birth and death registration in these states. The committee on Scientific Research of the Council on Health and Public Instruction has done during the past year one of the best pieces of work in its record. Quoting from Senate Bill 1258, introduced by Senator Myer of Montana, "while apparently only intended to forbid the use of dogs for experimental purposes in the District

of Columbia, was in reality an opening wedge for general restrictive legislation." The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate and by this Committee was referred to a subcommittee consisting of Senator Norris of Nebraska, chairman, Senator Colt of Rhode Island and Senator Ashurst of Arizona. Hearings covering several days were held in Washington the first week in November, 1919. The usual lobby antivivisectionists, officers of antivivisection societies, and others was present to urge the passage of the bill. The scientific side of the case was presented by an imposing array of distinguished scientific men under the leadership of Dr. Walter B. Cannon of Harvard Medical School. It is doubtful if any discussion of this question has ever been more brilliantly or convincingly conducted. The full report of the hearing published by the committee forms an interesting collection of scientific data as well as an exposition of the misstatements and fallacious arguments of the antivivisectionists. The bill has never been reported out of committee.

Another report of interest which was made before the House of Delegates was that of a special committee appointed to study the question of habit-forming drugs. It was the conclusion of this committee that with the present method of importing into this country large quantities of opium and without restrictive measures to limit the manufacture of the alkaloid of this drug, very little could be accomplished by the Harrison Act in limiting drug addicts. Further conclusions were drawn by this committee to the effect that heroin had no special value in medicine that was not filled by the other alkaloids of opium, and that it played great havoc in the formation of new addicts. The committee went on record as favoring legislation which would prohibit the manufacture and sale of heroin on this account. Numerous other instructive measures were suggested before the House of Delegates, and taking everything into consideration, the meeting impressed one as being most instructive in character.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) E. C. FLEISCHNER.

County Societies

ALAMEDA COUNTY

The regular monthly meeting of the Alameda County Society was held at the Health Center, June 21st.

Dr. C. A. Dukes presented an exceedingly interesting program.

"Ectopic Pregnancy," a carefully prepared paper, was read by Dr. S. H. Buteau.

"Early Treatment and Care of Compound Fractures," was the title of a timely paper by Dr. W. S. Bell.

Dr. Wm. A. Clark's paper: "A Possible New Operation for Vento-Suspension of the Uterus for Complete Prolapse," was illustrated by excellent slides demonstrating the technique devised by the author.

Dr. A. C. Siefert presented a paper entitled: "Diseases of the Lung and Pleura of Surgical Interest as Seen by the Roentgenologist." The paper was illustrated by slides and a number of excellent photos.

Each of the papers was followed by lively discussions.

Health center activities were considered at the monthly meeting of the staff and medical director, Dr. Alvin Powell.

The Staff of the Alameda Hospital at its monthly meeting July 12th discussed interesting matters of routine.